Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/425499097

Downloaded on Mar 29, 2024

ARTS & LIFE

THE GAZETTE | MONTREAL | MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2003 | SECTION EDITOR: MICHAEL SHENKER | 514 987 2560 | mshenker@thegazette.southam.ca

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BRAIN WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE?, D3

SECTION D | LISA FITTERMAN D2 | SUSAN SCHWARTZ D3 | SENIORS D4 | CAMILLI D7

The Rolling Stones created music as prototypical as the stuff they ripped off, with dark soul melodrama their trump card. Hooks, riffs, licks — they wrote the book

FROM GAZETTE FILES

Mick Jagger (clockwise from bottom left), Brian Jones, Charlie Watts, Keith Richards and Bill Wyman in 1964: copycat music that reeked of authenticity.

A fan's appreciation

JUAN RODRIGUEZ
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Not Fade Away. Time Is on My Side. Those song titles became my talismans upon discovering the Rolling Stones in 1964 at the tender age of 16. When everyone was fixated on the Beatles, being a Stones fan was an underground kind of thing. Meeting them a year later was nirvana.

To be a Stones connoisseur at the beginning was like taking an oath of allegiance to the outsider, the backdoor man. The "underground" was a concept just taking romantic hold among white middle-class teens when the "counterculture" went pop. The Stones were mod aesthetes who gave us an insider's carte blanche into outsider music, the enduring – though exploited or slighted by the mainstream – American aesthetic of blues, R&B, soul and jazz (Charlie Watts worshipped Charlie Parker).

We wanted to dig everything the Stones dug. That meant Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, Jimmy Reed, Bo Diddley, Willie Dixon, Otis Redding and Marvin Gaye. We thought it was incredibly impressive that they travelled to Chicago's fabled Chess Studios to wax their second album, 12x5, and, legend has it, Waters and Dixon dropped by. The Stones even titled a Booker T-like "jam" 2120 South Michigan Avenue/ The recording date rescued an otherwise disastrous debut tour (June 1964).

Nobody wanted to hear Rolling Stones in the vortex of Beatlemania. But we fans, the select few, in the underground, just knew ...

Their copycat music reeked of authenticity. Their eponymous first album (titled England's Newest Hitmakers in America) was a blast of black rhythms, pounding percussion and fat shuffle beats. (All of this was on their transmogrified, raspy Howlin' Wolf-like treatment of Not Fade Away, originally by the ultimate white-bread nerd-genius, Buddy Holly. It was this single that got 13-year-old future Clash punk-intellect Joe Strummer hooked on rock'n'roll.) The Stones had an exquisite ability to isolate and appropriate the elemental riffs, licks and blues-drenched bones of rhythm and blues.

It took blind courage, and rank opportunism, for the Stones to headline the TAMI Show – an all-star concert from Santa Monica, Calif., fed by "Electrovision" to cinemas in pre-MTV November 1964 – following an explosive, tightly wound performance by James Brown (getting his crossover shot).

Mick was blessed with Brit-boy-loves-the-blues naïveté. "Ah'm a kang bee, bay-buh, buzzin' roun' yore hive." This was part of the massive desegregation of the hit parade, the miscegenation of pop, the forerunner of white 12-year-olds digging rap.

Please see STONES, Page D5

THE LEGEND

We continue our five-part look at the Rolling Stones, who play the Bell Centre Wednesday.

Saturday: Montreal musicians tell us what their opinion is of the band.

Yesterday: Montrealers who've been up close and personal with the band.

Today: A fan's notes.

Tomorrow: A first-person account of what it's like to open for the Rolling Stones.

Wednesday: The tour so far.

WORKING

They'll help get your life in order

AT HOME OR OFFICE

Organizers pinpoint the problem areas

SUSAN SCHWARTZ
THE GAZETTE

They give their companies names like Out of Chaos and Organizing Solutions, and it's their job to bust your clutter, get your closet or your office in order or otherwise deliver you from chaos.

They're professional organizers and, in a world that seems to become more chaotic and busy each day, that's a growth industry.

We waste obscene amounts of time looking for things – and we appear to be acknowledging that we need help.

The organizers are busy enough that *they* have organized. Professional Organizers in Canada has grown to 100 members in only a few years, and a fledgling Montreal chapter now meets monthly to brainstorm.

Professional organizers come from varied backgrounds; they've been teachers and executives, homemakers and designers. Some specialize in homes, others in paper, still others in closets and offices. Some do professional shopping or offer concierge services.

Gayle Fransham, who established the Montreal chapter of POC, used to work for a software company and manage a biz. Today she specializes in household and corporate organizing. "My goal is to create a realistic approach to organizing," she said.

"I don't force anyone to get rid of anything. It's their choice: I simply ask the questions, make the suggestions and assist in the process. I want to help people obtain the life they want to lead by simplifying their lives."

Part of the job is "really loving your ability to relate to other people," said Susan Portnoy, whose expertise is in organizing people's space and papers and in creating filing systems. "If you just came in and said: 'I am going to show you what to do,' people would never relate to you.

"You have to tune in to people's needs, to where the problems are in their lives. Whoever hires you has to like you – and feel you won't judge them.

"All of us can be taught a system, but the same system doesn't work for everyone. You have to interview people and really listen to what they're saying."

Joel-Marc Golberg, president of POC's Montreal chapter, specializes in small businesses and entrepreneurs. "When I help a business get things organized, I look at the style with which a person works," he said. "I find out what's working for them and what isn't and why they feel they have to reorganize."

Much of a professional organizer's work "is personal discussion," Fransham said. "And it is very intimate. You're dealing with people and their lives: their stuff is part of their lives."

Please see ORGANIZERS, Page D2

ABOUT THE JOB

Pay: most professional organizers charge at least $60 an hour.

Hours: flexible.

Requirements: organizers have to be good listeners and want to help people – not just impose change on them. And of course they have to be organized.

Qualifications: no specific training or education is required.

Copyright © 2024 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

POWERED BY Newspapers.com